

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
/061 W

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P 132045Z MAR 78  
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1272  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0080

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, CA  
SUBJECT: DISSENSION WITHIN PQ RANKS

REF: A)77 QUEBEC 233; B) 77 QUEBEC 355; C) QUEBEC 074

1. QUEBEC MINISTER OF TOURISM, YVES DUHAIME, TOLD ME ON MARCH 10 IN EVIDENT STATE OF PIQUE THAT MINISTER OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, CLAUDE MORIN, WAS "PREMATURE" IN MAKING RECENT CATEGORIC DECLARATION ON INTENTION OF FUTURE SOVEREIGN QUEBEC TO REMAIN IN NORAD AND NATO (SEE REFTEL "C") ALTHOUGH MOST MEMBERS OF CABINET WOULD NOW AGREE WITH SUCH A COMMITMENT, DUHAIME SAID, IT HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY PARTI QUEBECOIS AND WILL MEET CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE FROM WITHIN PARTY. MORIN, HE SAID, ATTEMPTED CHANGE PREVIOUS PQ COMMITMENT TO PACIFISM AND TO WITHDRAWAL FROM NORAD AND NATO AT LAST PARTY CONVENTION HELD MAY 28-29, 1977 IN MONTREAL (REFTEL "A"). HE WAS ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL. PARTY MILITANTS REFUSED ACCEPT VOLTE-FACE IN SUCH A "SENSITIVE" AREA OF PARTY POLICY. FUZZY COMPROMISE WAS THEN WORKED OUT RETAINING COMMITMENT TO PACIFISM BUT AGREEING "EVALUATE PARTICIPATION IN DEFENSE ALLIANCES IN LIGHT OF ...INTER ALIA: "CLOSE LINES WHICH TIE US TO CANADA AND TO US."(REFTEL "B").  
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2. WITH EVIDENT FEELING, DUHAIME SAID MORIN SHOULD HAVE CLEARED HIS ANNOUNCEMENT THROUGH DEMOCRATIC MACHINERY PROVIDED BY PQ CONSTITUTION FOR APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO PARTY POLICY. (DUHAIME WAS PROPOSER OF PQ PARTY PLANK OF SEVERAL YEARS AGO CALLING FOR NEUTRAL, PACIFIST QUEBEC FOREIGN POLICY AND WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO AND NORAD)

DEPUTY ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS RICHARD POULIOT, WHO WAS EMBARRASSED THIRD PARTICIPANT IN CONVERSATION, ATTEMPTED PASS STATEMENT OFF AS EXPRESSION OF MORIN'S PERSONAL OPINION. DUHAIME REFUSED ACCEPT THIS EXPLANATION ASSERTING THAT HE HAD READ TEXT OF SPEECH WHICH, HE ASSERTED, WAS CLEARLY LABELED AS STATEMENT OFFICIAL GOQ POLICY. POULIOT THEN SHUT UP IN OBVIOUS CONFUSION.

3. COMMENT: THIS EXTRAORDINARY MANIFESTATION OF MINISTERIAL DISACCORD IS YET ANOTHER INDICATION OF DEEP DIVISIONS EXISTING WITHIN GOQ AND WITHIN PQ, WHICH ARE USUALLY HIDDEN FROM OUTSIDERS BY THIN VENEER OF UNITY. MOREOVER, IT DEMONSTRATES FRAGILITY OF PARTY WHICH HAS MORE CHARACTER OF "NATIONALIST MOVEMENT" THAN THAT OF PRAGMATIC NORTH AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTY. MEMBERS OF PQ, INCLUDING MANY WITHIN CABINET, ARE MOTIVATED BY STRONG STRAIN OF IDEALISM. THIS ACCOUNTS FOR HIGH LEVEL OF DEDICATION AMONG PARTY MEMBERS. HOWEVER, IT ALSO MAKES COMPROMISE DIFFICULT.

4. DUHAIME'S WARNING THAT MORIN'S STATEMENT IS LIKELY EXCITE LIVELY OPPOSITION WITHIN PQ IS ALMOST CERTAINLY ACCURATE. WHILE LEVESQUE HIMSELF MADE SIMILAR STATEMENT IN INTERVIEW WITH US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT LAST AUTUMN (REFTEL "B"), IT WAS NOT GIVEN STATUS OF OFFICIAL POLICY STATEMENT. MORIN'S REMARKS, WHICH WERE ALMOST CERTAINLY CLEARED BY PREMIER WERE CLEARLY IDENTICAL AS GOQ POLICY. THUS, WOULD APPEAR CONFIDENTIAL

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LEVESQUE IS PREPARED RISK PROVOKING DISSENSION WITHIN PARTY AND OPPOSITION FROM WITHIN CABINET. SINCE 1976 ELECTION HE HAS MAINTAINED THAT PQ AS PARTY DOES NOT MAKE GOVERNMENT POLICY AND HAS REFUSED ATTEMPTS BY ELEMENTS WITHIN PARTY TO IMPOSE PARTY PROGRAM ON GOVERNMENT. DUHAIME'S REACTION IS FURTHER PROOF THAT CABINET IS DIVIDED ON QUESTION OF AUTHORITY OF PQ TO IMPOSE ITS WILL ON LEADER OF GOVERNMENT. LEVESQUE AND MORIN MUST HAVE MEASURED POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO PARTY UNITY AND, PLACING IT BESIDE THEIR PERCEIVED NEED IMPROVE GOQ'S IMAGE IN US, HAVE DECIDED SUFFER DISSENSION AMONG PARTY MILITANTS. THIS IS YET ANOTHER CASE IN WHICH GOQ FINDS ITSELF FACED WITH "HOBSON'S CHOICE" IN ATTEMPTING SATISFY BASICALLY INCOMPATIBLE INTERESTS AND CLIENTELE. MCNAMARA

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMUNITY RELATIONS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS  
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